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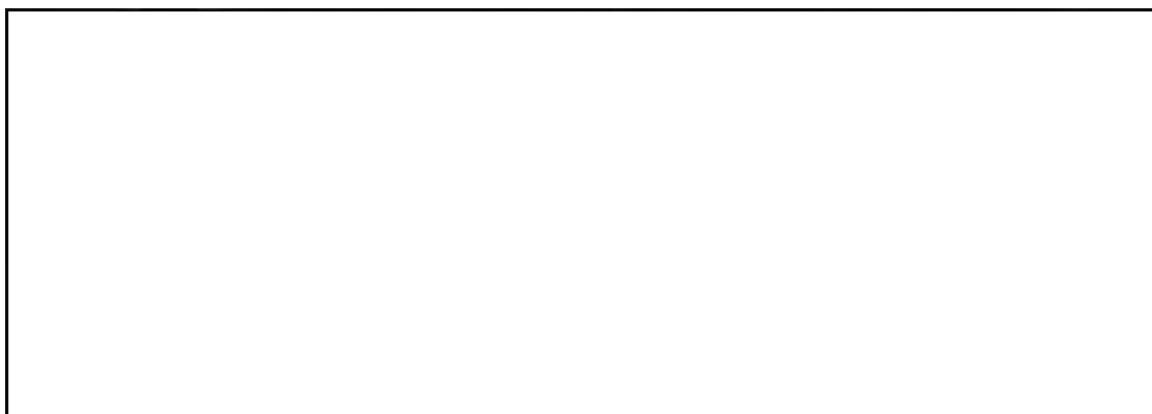
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Office of Current Intelligence

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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DIA and DOS review(s) completed.

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SUMMARY

SOVIET UNION

1. Comment on Soviet agricultural delegation to the United States (page 3).

25X1

NEAR EAST - AFRICA

3. Nasr states intention to seek arms from USSR (page 4).

LATIN AMERICA

4. Argentine political situation remains tense (page 5).

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5. Invitations issued for Moscow conference on peaceful uses of atomic energy (page 6).
6. Unusual Israeli army activity near Gaza strip reported (page 7).

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25X1

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SOVIET UNION

1. Comment on Soviet agricultural delegation to the United States:

25X1

[Redacted]

The importance Soviet leaders attach to the visit in July of an official delegation to observe American agricultural methods is clearly evident in the high administrative and technical positions occupied by the twelve members of the delegation. The Soviet leaders are apparently hopeful of deriving important practical knowledge from the visit.

The group is headed by First Deputy Minister of Agriculture of the USSR V. V. Matskevich. It includes Deputy Chairman of the State Commission for Long Range Planning Savelov; Deputy Minister of Automobile, Tractor, and Agricultural Machine Building Yezhevsky; Ukrainian deputy premier Gureyev; and outstanding Soviet agricultural scientists.

Party First Secretary Khrushchev has repeatedly stressed the importance for the Soviet Union of learning and adopting the advanced methods of other countries. The most important problem in the USSR today is the development of agriculture.

25X1

25X1

16 June 55

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

Page 3

Approved For Release 2002/07/30 : CIA-RDP79T00975A002000600001-2

25X1

25X1

NEAR EAST - AFRICA

3. Nasr states intention to seek arms from USSR:

25X1

Prime Minister Nasr has told Ambassador Byroade that Egypt is turning to the USSR for military equipment. At the same time, he asked about the possibility of purchasing American arms.

Nasr indicated he was fully aware that procurement of Soviet arms could be "dangerous to the Middle East." He appeared convinced, however, that his immediate problem is to protect Egypt from Israeli invasion and to assure himself of a continuous flow of supplies in the event of hostilities and an embargo by France, Britain and the United States.

Comment: Nasr's statement may have been intended in part as a lever to obtain arms from the United States. However, Egypt might be prepared to accept armaments from the USSR, if they could be obtained on Cairo's terms. These include barter payment in cotton and no foreign military technicians.

25X1

25X1

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USSR would be willing to furnish heavy artillery items in exchange for Egyptian cotton. The USSR, however, is not known to have delivered arms outside the Sino-Soviet bloc to date.

LATIN AMERICA

4. Argentine political situation remains tense:

25X1
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[redacted] the government is "nervous" and fears more serious trouble in view of the "huge" participation in the 11 June demonstration in Buenos Aires, [redacted]

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The Communist Party is said to have printed 30,000 pamphlets on behalf of "our Catholic comrades," with the reported objective of "keeping alive the spirit of rebellion among Catholics."

Comment: The Communists are also reported trying to negotiate with the traditionally anticlerical Radical Party, the major opposition to the Peron regime, for a joint campaign aimed at "defending the Catholic church and forming a democratic front."

Peron refused a request made by speakers at a large labor rally in Buenos Aires on 14 June to let labor handle "current difficulties with the church." Several leaders of the powerful Peronista labor organization are reported as having repeatedly urged the president to take a strong position against the church.

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5. Invitations issued for Moscow conference on peaceful uses of atomic energy:

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The national science academies of France, Britain and Denmark have been invited to send representatives to Moscow for a conference from 1 to 5 July on the peaceful uses of atomic energy. The French also understand that an Italian group has been invited. At least in the case of the French, the conference would be followed by a two-week trip through the USSR.

Comment: At least one American and one Japanese scientist have been invited to attend the same conference.

There have been increasing indications that the USSR has adopted a more liberal policy on releasing nuclear information. A German scientist who recently returned from the USSR said that he was told by a high Soviet atomic energy official last March that the time had come for less secrecy in the Soviet program. He added that Foreign Minister Molotov probably would release much previously highly classified data at the Geneva conference on the peaceful uses of atomic energy in August if the United States would release comparable data. Soviet papers already submitted to the UN, however, suggest that the USSR will continue to release data without regard to American action.

The USSR probably considers that a more liberal policy in releasing nuclear information at this time will strengthen its 10 May disarmament proposal, as well as its position at the four-power conference and at the August conference on atomic energy. Moscow probably also believes that such a declassification of information will offset US nuclear revelations such as the demonstration research reactor being constructed for the conference. The move will also support Moscow's claim to both Orbit and non-Orbit states that the USSR leads in all phases of nuclear energy development. (Concurred in by OSI)

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6. Unusual Israeli army activity near Gaza strip reported:

The American embassy and army attaché staff in Tel Aviv report unusual Israeli army activity near the Egyptian-held Gaza strip.

On a tour of Israeli rear areas around the strip, the assistant military attaché observed full field equipment in use, combat-loaded vehicles, extensive laying of new communications wire, much heavy equipment and bridging, and a movement of reservists and oil tank trucks toward the south. The assistant attaché estimates that five Israeli brigades were involved in an operation which he feels was probably maneuvers, but which from the scale of activity also suggested preparations for an actual attack.

The embassy has noted indications that reservists in the southern area of Israel, as well as some in Tel Aviv, have been called up. In its judgment, however, this does not necessarily mean that Israel has decided to launch an attack on the Egyptian forces.

Comment: A full-scale attack on the Egyptian position in the Gaza strip still seems unlikely. These activities could be in preparation for a new "retaliatory" raid, against which the Egyptians might react more strongly than they did last February. It seems more likely, however, that they are part of more extensive army maneuvers, some of which have also been observed along the Israel-Jordan border.

In addition to preparing for any eventuality, the Israelis may be seeking, by a demonstration of their strength, to impress Egypt and the West with the necessity of the "high-level" talks which Cairo is trying to avoid.